



Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

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First Quarter 1999 Quality Initiative Report

October 1998 – December 1998

Quality Indicators

ALTCS Elderly and Physically Disabled Indicators

AHCCCS is collecting data on all the indicators for ALTCS-EPD, with the exception of Psychotherapeutic Agents, which is currently on hold. The following information outlines the current status of the ALTCS-EPD quality indicators which were developed in collaboration with program contractors.

Pressure Ulcer: The Sacral/Coccygeal Pressure Ulcer Indicator, which measures the rate of improvement of sacral coccygeal pressure ulcers over a six month period, was the subject of the 1995/1996 Medical Audit completed in February 1997. The primary purpose of the audit was to establish a baseline for the indicator by examining the prevalence of pressure ulcers in the ALTCS population by stage classification and site. The audit was an important foundation piece for the Sacral/Coccygeal Pressure Ulcer Indicator.

The Pressure Ulcer indicator report for the period from October 1997 - March 1998 was submitted in July 1998. Findings for the indicator were that the prevalence of sacral/coccygeal pressure ulcers were relatively stable over the two data collection periods (1.21% in FY 1996 and 1.42% in FY 1998). Similar findings were obtained for both the nursing facility and HCBS settings.

During the six month period of the study, 37.1% (76) of the 205 members who were initially identified as having sacral coccygeal ulcers had died. Over eighty-six percent (66) of these members were residing in a nursing home at the time of their death.

Influenza Immunization: The first report on this indicator covered the period from September 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996. The report identified that 86.7% of the sample population residing in nursing facilities had received an influenza vaccination. The report for FY 98 was completed in May 1998 and covered the period from September 1997 through December 1997. The percentage of members who received, refused or were medically contraindicated for the Influenza vaccine in 1997 was 97.4%. The Healthy People 2000 influenza immunization goal for people over 65 is 80%. Of the sample group, 87.8% received the influenza vaccination. HCB members will be included in next year's report.

Changes in Activities of Daily Living (ADL): This indicator compares the PAS scores of members who had a PAS in 1996 or 1997 with a previous PAS conducted 12 months earlier. The results indicate that members with a dementia diagnosis had ADL deterioration at a higher rate when compared to non-dementia groups. Accordingly, members with a dementia diagnosis displayed less improvement when measured against members without a dementia diagnosis. These results correlate with the progressive nature of dementia diagnoses. In addition, members who reside in a nursing facility displayed more rapid ADL deterioration, when evaluated against members who reside in the community. The report was submitted in November 1998.

Hospital and Emergency Room Utilization: The report on this indicator was completed in November 1998. There was a slight decline in the percentage of members seeking treatment in an ER over a three year period. However, during this same period, the number of hospital stays originating through an ER visit increased slightly.

Fall Related Fractures: The most recent report on fall related fractures was completed in November 1998. Some of the report findings were:

- That females had a higher rate of fractures as a result of falls.
- No program contractor had a significantly higher rates of fall related fractures than the average.
- There was a small decline in the percentage of all members sustaining a fall related fracture between this report period and last report period.
- In the past two report periods, the hip was the most common site of a fall related fracture.

Psychotherapeutic Drugs: This indicator is on hold and is scheduled for review in 2001.

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